

ABC WORLD NEWS TONIGHT

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>FORMER CIA >JENNINGS: The FBI announced today it has cracked another >AGENT/ARREST>spy case. This time, the agency announced the arrest of a man charged with selling CIA documents to Czechoslovakia. Details from ABC's Tim O'Brien.

O'BRIEN: The suspect is identified as 50-year-old Charles Koecher, a nationalized U.S. citizen living in New York City. The FBI says Koecher had sold his upper east side apartment and had planned to board an 8:00 p.m. flight to Europe tonight. His wife, who the FBI said acted as a courier, is also being held as a material witness. FBI director William Webster says Koecher was specifically assigned to infiltrate U.S. intelligence and that he succeeded. Koecher held a job as a contract employee with the CIA from 1973 through '75, where he held a security clearance and had access to classified national security information. Koecher is specifically charged with delivering defense information to aid a foreign government. But as is customary, the FBI is not discussing what level of defense information may have been involved or the seriousness of the threat that Koecher may have posed to U.S. security. The FBI says Koecher has confessed to the charges, which carry penalties up to life in prison. Tim O'Brien, ABC News, Washington.